

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 through 20 are canceled hereby without prejudice or disclaimer. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (canceled).

21. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a DNA sequence encoding an infectious RNA molecule encoding a North American PRRS virus, wherein said DNA sequence is SEQ ID NO:24 or a sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO:24 under conditions comprising hybridization to filter-bound DNA in 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% SDS, 1 mM EDTA at 65 °C, and washing in 0.1X SSC/0.1% SDS at 68 °C.

22. (Original) A transfected host cell comprising a DNA sequence encoding an infectious RNA molecule encoding a North American PRRS virus, wherein said DNA sequence is SEQ ID NO:24 or a sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO:24 under conditions comprising hybridization to filter-bound DNA in 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% SDS, 1 mM EDTA at 65 °C., and washing in 0.1X SSC/0.1% SDS at 68 °C, which transfected host cell is capable of expressing the encoded North American PRRS virus.

23. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a DNA sequence encoding an infectious RNA molecule encoding a North American PRRS virus, wherein said DNA sequence is SEQ ID NO: 24.

24. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid in the form of a plasmid, wherein said isolated nucleic acid comprises a DNA sequence encoding an infectious RNA molecule encoding a North American PRRS virus, wherein said DNA sequence is SEQ ID NO: 24.

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25. (Original) An isolated infectious RNA molecule encoded by an isolated nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 24, which infectious RNA molecule encodes a North American PRRS virus.

26. (Original) A recombinant North American PRRS virus encoded by an isolated nucleic acid comprising a DNA sequence encoding an infectious RNA molecule encoding a North American PRRS virus, wherein said DNA sequence is SEQ ID NO: 24.